

## Final Report

Natalie Gummow

My experience in Switzerland has been one of the best experiences of my life. I have learned and grown a lot, met so many amazing people, and seen amazing places. I have learned more about the world, different cultures, different perspectives, being outside of my comfort zone, and of course, teaching. PH Zug set up buddies and a tour for us. This was great because we knew that we could go to PH Zug or our buddies if we needed anything, and our buddies offered to do things with us. We were able to go to our buddy's school. It was great to see a Swiss public school so that we could experience another school, classroom, and teaching style here in Switzerland. My cooperating teacher at ISOCS was great. He gave us enough responsibility to feel like we were getting great teaching experience but not so much that we were overwhelmed.

We usually taught science and art for the week and helped our cooperating teacher teach math and helped with or taught other smaller things as well. The school environment at ISOCS was very welcoming and supportive to us. They are a very small school and truly valued and used our presence at their school. My host family has been amazing. They have welcomed us into their home and lives and are such great, kind people and so much fun to be around. They have helped us with so much while we have lived here and invited us along to things like concerts and dinners with them. They also make us dinner often and have us pitch in CHF5-10 for each dinner we eat with them. They are both international teachers and even invited us to go to their school one day, which was a great experience because we were able to see another international school and other classrooms again while we were here. There was also two of us from Utah Valley University who lived with my host family, which was nice because we almost always had the buddy system wherever we went and could hang out with and look out for each other.

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My goals when starting this program were to gain more understanding of how to better help English Language Learners in my future classroom, learn more about creating and teaching great lessons, and learn and grow as a person from traveling and living in a different place. I did learn a lot about and gain more empathy for students and people who don't speak or are learning English. I also grew as a teacher in other areas and learned so much about life and the world. I have talked to people about things like culture, politics, and religion and learned from different perspectives in those conversations. I have an even more solid idea of what I want my classroom environment and management style to be like and how I will personally set that up and handle situations. I have learned that I want my classroom to be organized and well managed. I want my class to know how to be respectful and feel respected by me. I also want my students to know things like when it is okay to talk, when they need to listen, how to follow procedures, how to collaborate, how to be respectful to each other and adults, and how to handle conflict. I also want to teach them to be problem solvers and do real-life things.

To future students I would recommend to get to know people and Lindsay, another Utah Valley University student and I were in the same classroom and taught together. I think we did a pretty good job of teaching our lessons together and using each of our strengths in each lesson we taught, sharing the load and each teaching good amounts. I do feel we could have communicated exactly how we were carrying out certain parts of our lessons and gotten the materials ready a little more ahead of time before we taught. We had a few problems with respect in our class, and we tried to address it, but I could have set up how to be respectful and addressed it by teaching them what being respectful looks like and having them practice it. In our science lessons, we could have incorporated more writing into their lessons to have them write in their science books and reflect more. We did use the students' strengths in our lessons and allowed them to work together and make presentations. I felt like I learned a lot and

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improved in my management and teaching as I taught. We did hands-on activities and asked questions and allowed students to discuss and share things.